whether the official language policy is being followed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). As per information made available by the 20 nationalised banks, the requisite information is as follows:

(a) 443

(b) 389

(c) 310

Fund for Welfare of Defence Personnel

729. SHRI SWAMI SURESHANAND: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to create a separate fund for the welfare of jawans and officers of Defence services; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Ballot Papers for Armed Forces Personnel

730. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:
SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that ballot papers meant for Army, Navy and Air Force personnel are always dispatched late and these personnel are not able to cast their votes as a result thereof;

(b) if so, the total number of personnel in each wing who could not exercise their franchise during the last general elections;

(c) whether the Government propose to take any step in this regard to ensure the dispatch of ballot papers in such cases in time so that the service personnel can cast their votes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The ballot papers meant for the Defence Service voters are normally despatched to them by the concerned Service authorities within 24 hours of their receipt from the respective Returning Officers. However, sometimes there are delays in despatch of ballot papers to the Service Officers due to unavoidable circumstances viz., the late receipt of ballot papers from the Returning Officers, inadequate/ erroneous details of the voters etc.

(b) No details are available with the respective authorities regarding the number of voters who could not exercise their franchise during the last General Elections (May-June 1991).

(c) to (e). Instructions are issued from time to time to the concerned Service authorities to timely complete all formalities, including the registration of voters and the despatch of postal ballot papers to Service personnel. The Election Commission have also been requested by the Ministry of De-